

# Cohasset Mariner

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## Ethics In Government

To the Editor:

I deliberately waited until after the elections to write this letter to eliminate any question of political motivation.

The questions I asked of the Cohasset Board of Selectmen in my letter of March 20, 1979, go far beyond the legal determinations provided to the town.

When we are elected for appointed to positions of trust in town government the questions of ethics in our performance are far more important than any legal points which may be raised. If we seek these positions with the thought of personal gain as our goal then we hardly represent the people we serve. If we put our own personal gain or feeling ahead of the best interest of the people, then we have failed ourselves. Do we so quickly

### Letters

forget what our forefathers wanted in their statement of equal representation?

These questions can only be answered by the people who serve us. Only they know whether the ethical and moral issues are being honestly addressed.

May those candidates who were elected this past Saturday to represent us have the strength to withstand the pressures of their positions and serve with the moral and ethical standards we so sorely need in government. Only then can we succeed as a people in this world of ours.

Eric G. Pearson  
Highway Motor Sales

## Musings

By John Cutler

If you could create an aristocracy would you put your name on the list?

We were surprised to see that equestrian statue of George Washington in Trafalgar Square in London. There is no chance, however, for a statue of Ho Chi Min in Washington.

We read somewhere alcohol may give you a red nose, a white liver, a yellow streak and a blue outlook.

Someone said a king can make a nobleman but not a gentleman.

I like the quaint Anglo-Saxon custom of defining everything in terms of what it is not.

Stronger than fire and more enduring than granite is the work of an honorable man.

Everyone knows that a synonym is a word you use when you can't think of the other.

Can you imagine a belly dan-

cer with the hiccoughs?

Broadway hasn't changed since Walter Winchell called it a place where people spend money they haven't earned to buy things they don't need to impress people they don't like.

Winston Churchill shook his head after Lady Astor made a long, boring speech in the House of Commons. "I venture to say that my right honorable friend knows nothing about farming. I'll even make a bet she doesn't know how many toes a pig has." Lady Astor smiled. "Take off your little shoozies and we'll have a look."

I never use the word never.

Ed Sullivan's idea of a gourmet dinner was a mound of mashed potatoes.

One French female writer about a rival: "She has skin like a nutmeg grater."

## Town Meeting Sidelights

Town meeting was memorable this year not only for the major articles on a mammoth warrant but also for the diligent work and participation of people attending. It was people, after all, who comprised the meeting.

Advisory Board Chairman Patrick Hurley and Member George Rabstajnek are stepping down this year when their terms expire. A farewell to these men, as well as accolades to the whole board for religiously and indefatigably scrutinizing budgets and money articles, was given by residents in a standing ovation.

A "standing O" was also given to Selectman Mary

Jeannette Murray, who is stepping down to devote more time to her duties as state representative. Mrs. Murray was a selectman nine years. She warned the assembly that she will returning to give Selectmen Henry Ainslie and Arthur Clark, town meeting notables in their own right, the business from the other side of the table.

Another notable at this year's meeting was Gilbert Tower. The 94-year-old honorary town engineer attended every session and spoke brilliantly on articles that concerned him. Tower's remarks consistently met with loud approval and applause.

Truly deserving his round

of applause and appreciation was Town Accountant William Signorelli. As noted by Moderator David Place (worthy of bouquets of his own for conducting the well-run meeting), Signorelli stood ready as always with figures, sums and money projections on every money article.

The legal corps, Town Counsel Blake Thaxter and his assistant Richard Henderson, received a hand for rendering rulings and advice on legal ramifications of the more bewildering articles. Thaxter's voice could be heard throughout the entire meeting, however, as he called out "seconded" whenever a motion needed endorsement.

## Gasoline Crunch

[continued from page 1]

more cents on the gallon now, but because I am getting less and cutting hours, and I'm cut in the garage, too, the profit works out to be less," he said. "I don't think it will ever be like it was before."

Around the corner at Village Service Station, manager William Bernhard, Jr., was more nonchalant about the gas situation. He, too, has witnessed the rising prices of gas, an average of 10 cents since January; and he only began business there in November. His only shortage worries (he ran out of gas twice in the last two months) arise, he said, more from tardy Amoco delivery schedules than from actual shortages. His hours haven't been curtailed, he said, noting that he often stays open far into the evening.

The only reason Bernhard keeps gas pumps at all, he said, is as a service to the majority of his customers who are looking for Amoco high-test which is a high level octane fuel. Gas is a nuisance and expensive for him to keep, he said, because it just sits in a hole in the ground and takes a month to earn any profit back.

But Bernhard was sensitive to the long-range potential of gas shortages, which he believed will exist. "People do a lot of foolish driving. They like the privacy of being able to go someplace alone in their cars. Driving to work on the Southeast Expressway may be the only time during the day a guy isn't hassled at work or by the wife and kids," he commented.

Down at the other end of the Village on South Main Street, Joe Marks' service station experienced the same six cent hike in the last two weeks as neighbor Olympic Texaco.

"If it stays like it is, I can take good care of my regular customers," Marks said. Once he starts to run low, he said he'd have no qualms about placing limits on the amount of gas sold, particularly unleaded.

Marks' allotment is 90 per cent of what it was this time last year, but he has managed to maintain a kind of status quo as far as profit, the

amount of business he receives and the hours he puts in. "Barring a run," he said, which he wouldn't like to see, "my gas stays about the same."

Out on Route 3A where gas stations and traffic alike abound, Friday and Saturday night lines indicated that these stations were experiencing more of the real world than their Village cousins.

Village Petroleum, better known as the Getty station, was always a popular spot because of low prices and all-night servicing. Attendant Whitney Halloran said that owner John Swann, absent on vacation, doesn't answer to a monthly allotment schedule, and that as far as he knew has no problem getting gas.

"He runs on high sales and a low profit margin," Halloran attested. "He sells just gas: there is no service station." He was unable to comment further as he attended the mobs waiting on either side of the island.

The hours at Village Petroleum have been curtailed from the round the clock to a little-later-than-usual closing time at 10 p.m. This was due largely to an incident that occurred in the early hours of the morning a while back when an attendant was beaten and not because of gas shortages, according to a mechanic who rents the station's garage.

A mile or so down the road heading toward Scituate, independent owner Frannie Mitchell of Mitchell's Repair Shop wasn't too concerned over possible gas shortages. Yet he was concerned as was Marks about the overly busy weekend sales which threatened to deplete his supply still coming in at 100 per cent of last year's.

Mitchell has had a rash of new trade from people looking for Gulf stations, the Gulf station in Scituate Harbor went out of business.

Unlike Marks, Mitchell said he wouldn't put a limit on anybody. During the last crunch, he said, he filled everybody up and then closed down completely when he had to. The only time he might possibly consider limiting gas, he said, was if a customer's

**UNLEADED  
UNLEADED  
UNLEADED**  
**71.9**

gas tank registered between three-quarters full and full.

Mitchell, again unlike Marks, likes to keep his prices low and competitive but indicated that his profit margin isn't much better than it was in 1949. "If prices go up, business will slow up," he predicted, contrary to those who think a higher decontrolled price will bring both gas and business flowing like wine. "As prices go up, people will curtail a lot of their driving and they'll be buying smaller cars requiring less service."

Leo Fiori, who leases his station from Exxon, is closing five hours early every day and all day Sunday. The self-service island has been completely closed down since the first of March.

"Exxon tells me on the first of the month when my deliveries will be made and how many gallons to schedule per day," Fiori said. However, he agrees with Mitchell in filling up his customers' tanks to brimming, though he has a 95 per cent allocation.

Last month, he said, he had to make an application with the Federal Energy Office to increase his allotment, but the process was so lengthy it was sufficient to dissuade him from requesting an increase again.

While gas allocations and hours differ from station to station, and while attitudes about limiting gas sales in view of impending shortages differ as well, just about all admit two things: they'd like more gas and they really don't know what's going to happen.